

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG IMMEDIATE

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SY CHANNEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC, PINS

SUBJECT: THREAT ASSESSMENT FOR SECSTATE VISIT TO
SALISBURY

DAR ES SALAAM FOR SA ROCHE AND SY ADVANCE, PRETORIA FOR
RSO AND SY ADVANCE, JOHANNESBURG FOR RSO AND SY ADVANCE

1. THERE ARE NO INDICATIONS IN CURRENT INTELLIGENCE OF
ANY SPECIFIC THREATS AGAINST SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE
NOR ANY AMERICANS IN RHODESIA. THE ATMOSPHERE IN
SALISBURY, HOWEVER, IS THREATENING IN LIGHT OF THE
CURRENT SITUATION CONCERNING THE RHODESIAN INTERNAL
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AGREEMENT AND THE LACK OF PATRIOTIC FRONT BACKING FOR IT.

2. IN TERMS OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM OF THE KIND
PRACTICED BY HABBASH'S PALESTINIANS, THE JAPANESE RED
ARMY, AND THE RED ARMY FACTION, RHODESIA IS AN UNLIKELY
TARGET AS WELL AS AN IMPROBABLE TRANSIT OR SAFEHAVEN
SITE. THE VARIETY OF TERRORISM INDIGENOUS TO RHODESIA

IS MORE OF THE GUERRILLA WARFARE VARIETY WITH FREQUENT

RANDOM URBAN BOMBINGS. FOR EXAMPLE, ON THE DAYS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE MARCH 3 SIGNING OF THE INTERNAL AGREEMENT, THERE WERE AT LEAST NINE BOMBINGS IN SALISBURY AND ITS SUBURBS. AT THE SAME TIME, THERE WERE SKIRMISHES ON THE RHODESIAN BORDERS BETWEEN PATRIOTIC FRONT TERRORISTS FROM MOZAMBIQUE AND RHODESIAN FORCES.

3. SINCE THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT HAVE A MISSION IN RHODESIA, THE USUAL MEASURE OF ANTI-AMERICAN SENTIMENT, I.E., NUMBER AND DEGREE OF INCIDENTS AGAINST EMBASSY, CANNOT BE USED. A MARCH CABLE FROM CAPE TOWN (564) DETAILS LOCAL SENTIMENT TOWARD THE INTERNAL AGREEMENT AS ONE OF WATCHFUL WAITING, AND DOES NOT MENTION ANY INDICATION OF VIOLENCE.

4. SY/CC/TAG WILL MONITOR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION AND REPORT ANY THREATS IN AN EXPEDITIOUS MANNER. CHRISTOPHER

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